

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action of the Examiner mailed October 22, 2004. Claims 1-13, 15-17, and 19-30 remain pending. Claim 18 has been canceled without prejudice, and claims 17 and 19 have been amended. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-13, 15, 16, and 20-30 are allowed, and that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 17 and 19 have been amended to include the elements of objected to claim 18. As such, claims 17 and 19 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 17 is rejected as being anticipated by Jalics (US 4,221,557). While Applicants respectfully disagree that claim 17 is anticipated by Jalics, in the interest of furthering prosecution, claim 17 has been amended to include the elements of claim 18, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. For these and other reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

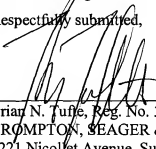
Claim 19 was rejected as being unpatentable over Jalics. Again, while Applicants respectfully disagree that claim 19 is anticipated by Jalics, in the interest of furthering prosecution, claim 19 has been amended to include the elements of claim 18, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. For reasons similar to those with respect to claim 17, claim 19 is also believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/698,882
Response Dated January 23, 2007
Reply to Office action dated October 26, 2006

Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested. It is submitted that, in light of the above remarks, all pending claims are all in condition for allowance. If a telephone interview would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612-359-9348.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 23, 2007



Brian N. Tufte, Reg. No. 38,638
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403-2420
Telephone: 612-359-9348
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349